FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MARCH 1986

Libya

Tripoli television and Voice of Greater Arab Homeland Radio broadcast the opening address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at an international conference on imperialism, Zionism, and other issues in Tripoli 15 March. In his speech, Col al-Qadhdhafi called on the conference participants to undertake a "collective struggle" against "Imperialism and its filthy alliance" by establishing a "new internationalist organization" as an alternative to the United Nations. The Libyan leader claimed that smaller nations and "strugglers for freedom" have no confidence in the UN General Assembly, which has "no will of its own," and he charged that the UN Security Council is "a hindrance to the will of the Arab peoples." Al-Qadhdhafi also called on the conference participants to support Nicaragua and Cuba against U.S. "harsh threats" and "imperialism."

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian planes bombed an Iraqi military and economic center northwest of Qal'at Salih 18 March, inflicting "irreparable" damage on Iraqi forces, according to an Iranian military communique reported by IRNA. Earlier, Iranian ground and naval forces destroyed the Iraqi naval base at Umm Qasr and an Iraqi frigate in the Khawr 'Abdallah 17 March, according to another communique cited by IRNA. In a news conference reported by Tehran radio, the Iranian defense minister claimed that Iranian troops are positioned on three "important" roads in the Al-Faw-Basra-Umm Qasr area and that all Iraqi counterattacks in the area have been defeated.

Meanwhile, Iraqi planes attacked the Iranian refineries at Esfahan 18 March, according to an Iraqi military statement broadcast by Baghdad radio. Iraqi planes also raided a group of Iranian vehicles south of Ahvaz, an Iranian command center, and another "large maritime target" 17 March, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. In Manama, the *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported that a Cypriot supertanker was on fire after being hit with an Exocet missile in an Iraqi attack south of Bushehr. In an interview with Egypt's *AL-JUMHURIYAH*, *Iraqi Navy Commander 'Abd al-Hamid* 'Abdallah announced that Iraq is determined to blockade Khark Island and to destroy all ships that approach it. 'Abdallah also claimed that the Iraqi Navy is in full control of the northern section of the Gulf.

Syria

A mercenary hired by Iraq was responsible for the explosion of a booby-trapped truck near the northern entrance to Damascus 13 March, Damascus television reported, adding that security forces had arrested the man responsible for the bombing. In a Damascus television interview, the arrested man said he was a Lebanese truck driver and that an Iraqi intelligence officer instructed him on how to detonate the bomb, adding that he was unable to take the truck into the area of the intended target, an officers club in Syria.

French Hostages in Lebanon

'Umran Adham, an envoy of the French president, told Lebanon's *AL-NAHAR* in remarks reported by AFP that the French hostages could be released "in the next few days" if France allowed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to deal with the situation. Adham told the paper that Ra'd had hampered the negotiations by making "ill-considered promises" to the kidnappers, AFP added. In another development, Damascus radio reported that Syria has played a "positive role" in the French hostages affair, adding that the country will continue to support efforts to achieve the hostages' release.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC ministers meeting in Geneva held a closed session 17 March in an effort to agree on a joint approach to oil prices and production, but "moderates" and "radicals" in the organization remained far apart on key issues, AFP reported. The Nigerian oil minister later told IRNA that OPEC is prepared to lower its daily oil production ceiling in order to "improve" the market.

Egypt

Cairo radio reported that PRC Presidnet Li Xiannian met privately with President Husni Mubarak. In a banquet speech reported by MENA, Mubarak praised PRC support for Egypt's policy in the Middle East, adding that Li's visit will further strengthen PRC-Egyptian friendly ties.

Libya-Chad

Chadian Government forces intercepted a patrol unit of "Libyan provocateurs and their mercenaries" Northeast of Koro Toro 17 March, according to a military communique reported by Ndjamena radio. Chadian troops pursued the unit back to its command post at Chicha, which was then "completely destroyed," the report added.

Sudan

Government forces withdrew from two garrisons 13-14 March after reinforcement forces were ambushed and dispersed, according to the clandestine radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The radio also claimed that 65 mutinous government troops were killed in a clash at Juba airport when they refused to travel to the "frontline." Juba airport was closed "indefinitely," the report added. Meanwhile, the defense minister denied reports that SPLA troops defeated government forces at Jonglei in a statement to *AL-SAHAFAH* reported by SUNA.

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Karmal Congratulates Gorbachev on Reelection
LD171815 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council has sent a congratulatory message to Moscow on the occasion of the reelection of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The message expresses the hope that the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress, which is a firm base for the welfare of the people of the friendly Soviet Union and other countries of the world, will be achieved in the interest of peace, needed by all men throughout the world.

UN Envoy Cordovez Leaves Kabul for Islamabad
LD171506 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, 17 Mar (BAKHTAR) — Diego Cordovez, the envoy and assistant to the UN secretary general, who had come to Kabul for exchange of views with the DRA authorities left today at 1100 for Islamabad.

Sarwar Yuresh, vice minister; Sakhi Daneshjo, adviser to the Foreign Affairs Ministry; the deputy head of protocol and the head of UN development program in Kabul were present at Kabul International Airport to see Diego Cordovez and his delegation off.

Before leaving for Islamabad Diego Cordovez replied to a BIA correspondent's question about his trip to the region and thanked the DRA authorities for their hospitality and cooperation. He said that a lot has been accomplished during his trip.

Having expressed satisfaction about talks in Kabul, Diego Cordovez added that the process of talks will continue in Geneva in near future.

Has Timetable for Soviet Withdrawal
OW181107 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Islamabad, March 18 KYODO — United Nations mediator on Afghanistan Diego Cordovez Tuesday announced that Kabul authorities have handed him a document containing a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

He also said the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan are expected to resume their stalled negotiations for a political settlement of the Afghan problem.

However, Cordovez told newsmen at the end of ten days of shuttle diplomacy in the region that he was still awaiting a response from Kabul and Islamabad to his proposals to overcome the question of the format of the talks. He said these would be communicated to him in New York.

The United Nations mediator, who twice visited Kabul during his ten-day mission described his talks in the two capitals as very intensive, very thorough, very difficult, but very positive all the time. He said that with the delivery of the timetable for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan he now had all the elements required for a comprehensive settlement of the Afghan problem.

Cordovez cautioned that issues that lay ahead were still complicated and involved extremely difficult negotiations and it was therefore necessary to avoid unnecessary speculation since there are a lot of people who are suffering because of this problem.

The United Nations official refused to answer a question as to whether he was awaiting a response to his proposals about the format of the talks from only one party or both and said that he has asked his interlocutors to keep secret the content of his current mission.

When asked if the statement about Afghanistan by Soviet Communist Party Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev at the February party meeting had helped the situation, Cordovez said the situation in Afghanistan was such that everybody wanted to make a contribution. He thought that the American willingness to act as an international guarantor against non-interference in Afghanistan, his visit to Moscow, Islamabad and Kabul, and the statement of the Soviet secretary general had all helped in creating the present climate for a solution of the Afghan problem.

Mr Cordovez said he has twice briefed Iranian charge d'affairs in Islamabad about the outcome of his talks, but unfortunately could not visit Tehran on this occasion due to impending debate in the United Nations Security Council about Iranian allegations that Iraq has used chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war.

While Pakistan now has some 3 million Afghan refugees, about 1 million Afghan refugees are taking shelter in Iran.

Agreement Signed To Buy British, French Helicopters

BK151600 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] India is to acquire 21 Westland helicopters from Britain at a cost of 65 million pounds. An agreement for this was signed in New Delhi today by the representatives of the Helicopter Corporation of India and the Westland Company of the United Kingdom. The project cost is equivalent to about 114 crore rupees for supply of helicopters.

The delivery of the helicopters will begin next month and the entire deal will be completed by the end of next year.

The helicopters will be used to provide air transport support to the petroleum sector, for operations in hilly terrain and for emergency operations.

A press release by the Indian Airlines says that the government has also approved the purchase of 27 Dauphin helicopters from a French company at a cost of about 82 crore rupees.

Opposition Seeks Economic Measures Against Sri Lanka

BK150310 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Leaders of nine opposition parties have called for economic measures against Sri Lanka. In a joint statement issued in New Delhi yesterday, leaders have pointed out that Sri Lanka clearly wants a military solution and during the past 1 year it has managed to equip itself militarily. The statement said as many 3,000 innocent Tamils have been killed and more than 100,000 turned into refugees. It criticized the government for what they called its vacillating policy on the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. The leaders have called upon the government to launch a diplomatic offensive to prevent foreign powers from giving military aid to Sri Lanka. It also urged the government to raise the issue in international forums like the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and the commonwealth heads of government meeting.

The signatories to the statement include the leaders of the Janata, Congress-I, Bhartiya Janata Party, Indian Union Muslim League, Telugu Desam, Lok Dal, Dravida Munnetra Kazagham, Tamil Nadu Congress-Kamraj, and Jammu and Kashmir National Conference.

International Criminal Escapes From Tihar Jail

Inquiry Ordered

BK170325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr H.L. Kapoor, has ordered an administrative enquiry into the escape of Charles Shobraj from Tihar jail in Delhi yesterday. The chairman of the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation, Mr S.P. Lakhar, will head the enquiry. The police has suspended and arrested the assistant jail superintendent and five others in this connection.

As reported earlier, Charles Shobraj, who is involved in a number of criminal cases, yesterday escaped from Tihar jail with six other prisoners. Shobraj, who was charged with several cases of smuggling and other crimes, is also wanted by Interpol.

Minister Mirdha Comments

BK171611 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Seven officials of Tihar jail in Delhi, including an assistant superintendent, have been arrested in connection with the escape of Charles Sobhraj and six others from the jail yesterday. Eight jail officials have been placed under suspension. The police have registered a case and are conducting investigation. This was stated by the minister of state for home affairs, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, in the Lok Sabha today. He was making a statement on the escape of the prisoners from the jail.

Mr Mirdha said that information about the escape has been sent to other countries also through the Interpol. A red alert has been declared and a hunt started for the escaped prisoners.

According to a spokesman of Delhi police, the case has been transferred to the crime branch.

The minister also announced that the enquiry to be conducted by Mr S.A. Lakhar, a senior officer of the Delhi administration, will determine the sequence of events and circumstance leading to the escape. It will also fix responsibility for negligence or lapses on the part of the officials at the jail. The report will be submitted within 1 month.

2 Killed, 2 Injured in Amritsar Attack

BK160903 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were killed and two others injured when some suspected terrorists attacked a house in village (Buttar) in Amritsar District last night. The injured included a woman. The police have cordoned off the area, and a massive hunt is on to nab the culprits.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, two suspected terrorists were arrested in Gurdaspur District while they were trying to sneak in from across the border. The interrogation is continuing. Meanwhile, the police have arrested about 35 suspected terrorists from different parts of the state during the last few days. During the interrogation, they have confessed to have received training, material, and directions to indulge in subversive activities in Punjab from a neighboring country.

Demonstration Opposes Visit of U.S. Fleet to Karachi

NC172115 Paris AFP in English 2100 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, March 17 (AFP) — Hundreds of people shouting "Yankees go home" staged a protest rally here Monday at the first-ever visit to Pakistan of the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

The demonstrators paraded the city's main commercial centre, burnt an American flag and an effigy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, and shouted: "Reagan — enemy of peace" and "Down with American imperialism."

Many of the protestors, estimated to number about 1,500, were members of the outlawed Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), the chief secular opposition to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Others came from leftist parties, including the Pakistan National Party, the National Democratic Party and the far-left National Liberation Front, sources said.

The fleet is headed by the *Enterprise*, the world's biggest aircraft carrier, accompanied by two destroyers, two guided missile cruisers and a nuclear submarine.

A source in the U.S. consulate-general was quoted by the official news agency ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) as saying that the visit, which ends on Wednesday, was in connection with the "normal U.S. naval operations in the area."

'Unprovoked' Afghan Attacks on Khurram Protested

BK161726 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Afghan Armed Forces fired 10 rounds of artillery on Tuesday last, which landed near village (Barghi), approximately 10 miles southwest of Parachinar in Khurram Agency. As a result, two Afghan refugees were killed and three injured.

Later on Friday, Afghan Armed Forces fired 27 rounds of artillery, which landed in the area [word indistinct] miles northwest of (Karlasi) in Khurram Agency. There was, however, no loss of life or damage to property.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this morning and a strong protest lodged with him over the unprovoked attack.

Zia Says Kashmir To Be Resolved Under Simla

BK161612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] During his brief talk with newsmen in Islamabad today, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan and India have agreed to solve the Kashmir issue peacefully in the spirit of and under the Simla agreement and according to the UN resolutions. Clarifying the reports published in some newspaers, he said the impression created in these reports that the Kashmir issue is not mentioned in the Simla agreement is not healthy.

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 14 March

BK150020 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Poland, Mr Jan Majewski, arrived in Islamabad tonight on a 3-day visit to Pakistan for bilateral consultations. During his stay, the Polish deputy foreign minister will call on the federal minister for water and power, Lieutenant General Retired Jamal Said Mian, and Minister for Commerce Prince Mohyuddin Baluch. He will also hold discussions with officials. His visit is part of periodic consultations held by Pakistan and Poland regularly over the past 2 years for exchanges on matters of bilateral and international concern.

Offers Power Generation Assistance

BK161648 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] The Polish deputy foreign minister, Jan Majewski, and the acting foreign secretary, Abdus Sattar, held final round of formal talks in Islamabad this morning.

The Polish deputy foreign minister has said that Poland is ready to start joint ventures with Pakistan in the field of power generation. During his meeting with the federal minister for water and power, Lieutenant General Jamal Said Mian, retired, in Islamabad today, the Polish minister also said that his country is interested in setting up a coal-operated thermal power station in Pakistan. He offered to supply transformers, generators, and turbines at lower costs. He said Poland wants to cooperate with Pakistan in its (Hub Chowki) project and the Bin Qasim project No. 5.

The federal minister for water and power told him that Pakistan wants Polish assistance in the development of the Dakhna coal fields for producing electricity.

UN's Cordovez Continues Visits to Islamabad, Kabul

Meets Iranian Charge

BK141531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, met with Foreign Office officials in Islamabad today. He also met with the Iranian charge d'affaires. He is expected to leave for Kabul tomorrow morning.

Returns From Kabul

BK171021 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The personal representative of the United Nations secretary general on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, arrived in Islamabad from Kabul today.

President Khamene'i Sends Message to OPEC

LD170948 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, March 17, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i, in a message to the 72nd extraordinary session of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), opened in Geneva Sunday, said that current crisis in international oil market has posed a new test to the organization. Under the present conditions, failure to make an appropriate decision will weaken the organization and result in irrepairable damages, he added.

Further in the message, read by the Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, the president described the OPEC as one of the most "effective organizations of the Third World countries which had the power to defend the legitimate rights and interests of the oppressed nations."

OPEC, he added, should adopt a measure which would stabilize oil prices in international market and prevent unnecessary and damaging price fluctuations.

If OPEC members are unable to preserve unity of the organization and fail to respect the collective decisions and think of their own individual interest, the organization will be weakened. Therefore, the message added, interests of the members will be ruled by those who want to purchase its oil at the lowest rate.

The organization, by holding some two thirds of the world resources, shall be able to regain its control over the international market, it said.

Any failure of the OPEC, he added, to come up with a swift and decisive decision, will serve major oil consumers who have been trying to impose unjust conditions on the organization.

"OPEC now must prove that as a unified organization it will be able to protect national interest of its members against the plots," he concluded.

OPEC Ministers 'Determined To Stabilize' Prices

LD171934 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, March 17, IRNA — Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), here to participate in the organization's 77th meet, met in closed door session here Monday in an effort to coordinate views of member countries.

Unofficial reports from the session indicate that the oil ministers are determined to stabilize oil prices by whatever means necessary. They had expressed concern over the shaky oil prices in a previous session Sunday.

Indonesian Minister of Mining and Energy Dr. Subroto said before the closed-door session that he was confident that oil prices would reach an acceptable level. He said what was most important was to prevent any further cut in the prices.

The Nigerian oil minister told IRNA correspondent here Monday that OPEC is prepared to decrease its daily oil production ceiling to improve the market.

OPEC appointed a special group of experts to study the issue at the conclusion of its Monday morning session. It will follow up the talks on its next session Tuesday.

Current chairman of OPEC, Venezuela's Arturo Hernandez told reporters after the end of the session that the newly appointed group of experts would study technical aspects of current oil prices and would report to the conference on its conclusions.

Reaction to UN Investigation of Iraqi Chemical Weapons

Musavi on Perez de Cuellar Remarks

LD161117 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said here Sunday that despite vicious attempts of superpowers to keep the present Iraqi regime in power, the Iranian combatants were strengthening their positions in the Al-Faw peninsula and were fully ready to deal a blow on the enemy in the battlefield.

Speaking after a cabinet ministers meeting Sunday morning, the prime minister referred to the recent statements of the U.N. secretary general confirming Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons and noted that such an attitude will make conditions difficult for the Iraqi ruler.

Appreciating the U.N. secretary general's statements despite international pressures, Musavi said that announcement of this stance is further indicative of the fact that Iran should continue its defence until the downfall of the Iraqi regime. Noting that the superpowers along with some regional countries, scared of Saddam Husayn's downfall, would make attempts to keep Saddam in power, the prime minister stressed that these efforts were doomed.

In its Sunday session, the Cabinet ministers studied latest developments in the war fronts and also political events in the world.

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD152042 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] The Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry issued a statement concerning the UN delegation's report on the deployment of chemical weapons; it said:

The report by the UN mission regarding the continuing deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq was released as a document by the Security Council and stresses, in addition to other points, that: first, chemical weapons have been used not only on the frontlines but in Abadan as well; second, the deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq within the past 2 years has increased, as compared to 1984, when the last report of the UN mission was prepared.

The report also showed that international reaction has so far been inadequate and that the Iraqi regime, by stepping up the use of chemical weapons, has once again proved its utter disregard for international stands concerning important international, humane standards.

Having said that, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran draws the attention of all countries and international bodies, particularly the United Nations, to the following points:

Considering that Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons has been elucidated in the report and in view of the fact that increasing the deployment of chemical weapons will ultimately threaten the international community, all countries and the international community are expected to condemn Iraq unilaterally and unconditionally for its violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

The Security Council has the duty to seriously consider this report as soon as possible, and then, in a separate resolution, condemn Iraq. It also has the duty to take necessary and practical steps to thwart this dangerous trend.

UN Called on To Condemn Iraqi CW

LD151414 Tehran IRNA in English 1148 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 15, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran Friday called on the U.N. officials to take any necessary measure to condemn Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons.

The call was made by Iran's temporary charge d'affaires to the United Nations Fereydun Damavandi Kamali at a press conference, following the release of a report by the U.N. mission which confirmed deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq.

The report gathered by the U.N. mission has been handed over to the Security Council by the U.N. secretary general.

The report said that the mission inspected areas around Abadan where "chemical weapons have been used against Iranian positions by Iraqi forces."

"Based on medical examinations and testimony of Iranian and Iraqi casualties evacuated from the Al-Faw area, chemical weapons were also used in that war zone by Iraqi forces." The report added that through the evidence examined by the specialists, the type of weapons used was aerial bombs and "the chemical used was mustard gas."

However, the mission noted in its report that the use of chemical weapons in 1986 appeared to be more extensive than in 1984.

Majlis Speaker Sends Message to UK Counterpart

LD142022 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 14, IRNA — A message from Iran's Majlis speaker calling on Britain to condemn the use of chemical weapons and the shooting down of an Iranian passenger plane by the Iraqi regime has been handed to his British counterpart.

The message from Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was delivered to Britain's speaker of Parliament Mr Bernard Weatherall, in a meeting Thursday with Iran's charge d'affaires here Mr Jamal Sadatian.

Thousands of Iranian combatants have been affected by Iraqi gas attacks in the strategic Al-Faw peninsula during the past month. More than one hundred gassed fighters have been flown to European hospitals — including those in London — for treatment but several have already died from severe internal and external injuries.

Iraqi warplanes shot down an Iranian passenger plane on February 20, carrying among other civilians, eight Majlis deputies. None survived.

Britain has so far refused to condemn Iraq specifically for its chemical warfare against Iran and Muslim observers say it was unlikely that it would do so openly because it would mean a blow to Iraq's reputation, and would also provoke anger from Arab reactionary regimes which are among the biggest buyers of British arms.

Majlis Speaker 'Warns' U.S. on Involvement in War

LD161138 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sunday described to [as received] the recent statements of the U.S. State Department officials on the Iraqi imposed war as an "impudent insult against people of the southern part of the Persian Gulf, and against Muslims and all other nations."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani was commenting on the recent U.S. warning against the escalation of the war, and that any military action by Iran against regional states would jeopardize U.S. interests.

He reiterated that there was no threat on behalf of Iran against the southern Persian Gulf states. "We have only warned them not to get involved and this is not a threat but an advise."

The Majlis speaker said the U.S. seemed to be concerned over the Islamic world more than the Muslims themselves.

The question, he said, is that how the countries of the region would tolerate such an insult and accept that "any threat against them was a threat against U.S. vital interest." this is a disgrace, he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, [words indistinct] particularly its Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, for having fulfilled its duty in reporting the Iraqi deployment of chemical [words indistinct].

The U.N. investigation team visited Iran recently to file a report on application of chemical weapons by Iraq. The report, unlike previous occasions, explicitly declared that Iraq had deployed lethal chemical weapons against Iran's Islamic combatants.

"Although deployment of chemical weapons is a nominal portion of the Iraqi crimes against Iran still we are thankful of the U.N. and hope the Security Council and other U.N. officials as well as benevolent individuals will pursue the matter so that this [words indistinct] will be stopped."

The Majlis speaker also touched on the news of American warships anchoring off Karachi harbor and regretted that an Islamic country like Pakistan had allowed U.S. fleet, said to include guided missile cruisers, to dock at its harbor.

He described the Pakistani Government's measure as a blunder and an insult to the Pakistani nation. The Pakistani people should respond to such humiliation themsleves.

The speaker emphasized however that "the Iranian nation does not fear such steps and in the course of the 5½ year old Iraqi imposed war it has proved that it fears no one but God."

The enemies of Iran, he added, have also realised that they could never think of committing any aggression against Iran or else they would have the same fate as Saddam.

Referring to the arrival of a French fleet in the Persian Gulf waters and the British Government announcement to provide assistance to Kuwait if it was requested, Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked what had happened to the Iraqi regime with all the assistance extended to it?

Military maneuvers of the U.S. and French fleet and also statements of the U.S. officials were aimed at boosting the morale of the Iraqi commanders, the speaker said. Such moves, he added, also showed confusion of these powers.

"We hope that nations and governments of the region will not be lured to such statements."

The Majlis speaker urged governments supporting the Iraqi ruler to refrain from doing so and described Saddam as "a person on his deathbed."

All the Islamic Repubilc of Iran wanted, he stressed, was security of the region, freedom of the nations and curtailment of the hands of the aggressors.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised presence of vigiliant Iranian youths at war fronts and said that all these provocations and moves of the big powers were instigated by the resistance of the Iranian volunteers at the battlefields.

Under the present conditions, he added, more Iranian youth should join the war fronts.

Foreign Ministry on Human Rights Resolution

GF160632 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement dealing with the recent resolution of the Commission on Human Rights. Here is the statement:

In the name of God. During the 42d meeting of the Commission on Human Rights, a group of Western countries imposed on this commission a political resolution in connection with the Islamic Republic of Iran. This resolution was passed under such circumstances that the Islamic Republic of Iran repeated its invitation throughout the commission's discussions to any prominent, international, and neutral personality from the Third World or the Islamic world who is familiar with international and Islamic law to visit Iran to clarify the truth for the world.

Another segment of the Foreign Ministry statement says: The group of West European countries, especially those with a long history of colonialism, were terribly worried by the Islamic Republic of Iran's invitation and, with the utmost speed, passed a resolution to prevent a Commission on Human Rights' representative from visiting Iran which would bring out the truth.

The statement of our country's Foreign Ministry also says: The disagreement of the Islamic and nonaligned nations with this resolution shows just how much the Western countries were isolated when it came to passing the resolution.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, considers this resolution worthless and void, and hereby announces that this position will only result in strengthening Islam's judicial principles and will spread the wave of the Islamic movement throughout the world against the corrupt Western ways. The Islamic Republic of Iran will examine carefully the positions taken by countries in this political resolution.

Montazeri Meets Revolution High Council Members

LD142319 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — The future spiritual leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri received members of High Council in Charge of Cultural Revolution in Universities in Qom Thursday.

At the meeting, Ayatollah Montazeri outlined the objective of the cultural revolution and also reminded the visitors of their duties. He furthermore stressed the importance of training committed professors for universities in a bid to make the country self-sufficient in this respect.

The revered ayatollah, then, gave some guidelines on seeing to the needs of university professors.

Defense Minister Reviews 'Val-Fajr' Operations

LD171215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] In a press conference broadcast by radio and television this morning, Colonel Jalali, the defense minister, explained the military significance of the "Val-Fajr-8" and 9 operations. According to a Central News Unit correspondent, the defense minister began his remarks by saying: "Val-Fajr-8" operations were among the most unique military operations in the history of warfare; they were a golden page in the history of Islamic wars

against infidels. These operations will in the future be analyzed and studied in world military acadamies as unique operations.

The defense minister added: The crossing of the wide Arvand River by the Islamic combatants was an extremely difficult and heroic operation. As far as military analysts are concerned, the crossing of such a river would have required the erection of several bridges. With the enemy controlling the far bank of the river, however, building a bridge was impossible. The enemy never imagined that the Islamic warriors could possibly cross the river. Our combatants, however, applied a totally new method in the history of warfare and managed to cross the Arvand River and implement their plan.

Continuing his remarks, the defense minister said: In the "Val-Fajr-8" operations the Islamic warriors strangled the enemy, with the Saddam regime loosing its best and most efficient forces. Iraq's 7th Army was smashed, the 10th Armored Brigade wiped out, and the presidential guard, considered the most powerful force in Iraq, was totally wiped out. On the basis of information received from Iraq, Saddam is now recruiting new personnel to reorganize his destroyed guard.

Referring to machinations by the Iraqi regime concerning the advance of its forces towards Al-Faw and the retreat of Iranian forces, Col Jalali said: Despite the fact that the Saddam regime has staked its reputation on recapturing Al-Faw and stopping further advances by the Islamic combatants, it has failed to achieve anything in the Al-Faw sector. Right now, the Islamic combatants are stationed on the three important roads, the Al-Faw-Basrah, Umm Qasr, and the old Al-Faw-Basrah; so far, all enemy counterattacks have been defeated.

He then viewed "Val-Fajr-8" and 9 operations as a warning to global arrogance and the reactionary states of the region against their support for Saddam. He said: The "Val-Fajr-8" and 9 operations were totally different in nature. The "Val-Fajr-8" operations were amphibious, involving the crossing of the river, and took place in a tropical region, whereas "Val-Fajr-9" operations were in hilly terrain that is impassable and cold. They demonstrated the combat ability of the Islamic combatants, who are able to carry out victorious operations anywhere and under any circumstances.

He then explained the extraordinary power of the air defense and the ability of the Air Force jets during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, saying: By using our own experts we managed to surmount the shortcomings in our air defense and, with the new initiatives we applied to our missile defense, we were able to deal deadly blows to the Iraqi Air Force. He added: During "Val-Fajr-8" operations the Islamic Republic Navy maintained its absolute sovereignty in the Persian Gulf and considerably assisted the Islamic combatants. By cooperating with the naval units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and making use of each other's experiences, we crossed Arvand River and thus opened a new chapter in naval warfare.

Col Jalali denied claims made by the Iraqi regime to the effect that its Navy had pounded naval targets. He said: The Iraqi Navy, since the beginning of the war, has had no role in it. Having closed the Khawr 'Abdallah waterways, we have crippled the Iraqi Navy.

In conclusion, he explained the activities of the defense industry and, citing its extraordinary achievements in recent years, referred to the industry as the most important industrial sector in safeguarding the country's independence. He then said: The defense industry has taken long strides toward self-sufficiency. By making use of the creativity of its experts, while increasing and diversifying production, the defense industry has created new production lines. It has achieved impressive successes in producing modern weapons and reproducing and repairing sophisticated weapons.

Majlis Approves Revolution Committee Constitution

LD131729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Our correspondent has sent the following report on today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session this morning, during which the Constitution of the Committee of the Islamic Revolution of Iran [CIRI] [as heard] was raised for a second debate and approved.

According to this Constitution the CIRI is a law and order institution under the supreme command of the leader and under the supervision of the Interior Ministry. It aims at establishing security and safeguarding law and order in the country to guard the Islamic revolution of Iran and its achievements within the framework of the law.

The CIRI's duties and tasks are as follows: Waging a lawful fight against elements and movements that would undermine the country's security in coordination with the Information Ministry; cooperating with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in waging a lawful struggle against agents and courses of events aimed at sabotage, overthrowing the system of the Islamic Republic, or taking steps against the Islamic revolution of Iran; reporting incoming security reports and intelligence to the Information Ministry and carrying out security missions entrusted to it by the Information Ministry; lawfully fighting against elements engaged in procuring, distributing, and consuming narcotics, procuring and distributing forbidden goods, and committing the religiously reprehensible actions mentioned in the Islamic Punishment Law.

The gendarmerie and police are duty-bound to cooperate with the CIRI, when the need arises, in carrying out the following tasks: Cooperating with the gendarmerie toward safeguarding and controlling the country's borders; similar coordinated measures with other forces [as heard] toward collecting arms, ammunition, equipment, and forbidden military and law-and-order communications means; and supervizing public places in carrying out entrusted missions. The CIRI, in carrying out these missions, shall act as the law enforcement arm of the judiciary, and when necessary, will make use of the organized forces of the meek, the mobilization of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps,

as deemed fit by the Security Council or the local Security Council.

The CIRI will cooperate in matters of relief work with the appropriate organs in the eventuality of disasters or unforeseen incidents; cooperate with the Army and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps when necessary; and will undertake ideological, political, military, and law-and-order training for the guards of the CIRI toward gaining the necessary power in carrying out entrusted missions.

In accordance with other articles of this Constitution the crimes connected with the special military and law-and-order task of the members of the CIRI will be investigated by military tribunals, but their common crimes or those which they might commit while acting as the arm of the Justice Ministry will be investigated by ordinary courts.

The government is also duty-bound, at most within 9 months from the date of the approval of this law, to present to the Majlis a draft bill covering regulations for the employment and securing the needs of the CIRI members regarding salaries, housing, and treatment while working and during retirement and disability.

Reportage on Official's Attendance at Palme Funeral

Meets Prime Minister Carlsson

LD141858 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text]Stockholm, March 14, IRNA — Iranian Political Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, here to participate in the burial ceremony of the late Swedish premier, Olof Palme, met and conferred with Sweden's new Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson here Friday.

At the meeting, the Iranian deputy prime minister expressed hope that political, economic and cultural relations between Iran and Sweden would expand.

Mo'ayeri also expressed hope that the new Swedish Government would follow Palme's independent policies on global issues and preservation of international conventions.

The deputy prime minister furthermore said that the Iraqi regime has recently resumed its use of chemical weapons against Iranian Muslim forces in the warfronts and that Iranian victims of Iraqi toxic gases were presently hospitalized in Sweden. In response, the new Swedish prime minister said that the foreign policy of his country would remain unchanged, noting that he thought the expansion of Tehran-Stockholm relations would be in the interest of the two countries.

Meets Perez de Cuellar

LD150633 Tehran IRNA in English 0614 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Stockholm, March 15, IRNA — Iran's Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met and discussed the U.N. stance vis-a-vis Iraq-Iran war, here Friday night.

Mo'ayeri is here heading an Iranian delegation to take part in the funeral ceremony of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. The U.N. secretary general is also here to attend the ceremony.

During the meeting Mo'ayeri said that although the recent Security Council's resolution was not acceptable by the Islamic Republic of Iran for its one-sided stance favouring Iraq, Iran praised efforts of the U.N. Secretary General for the materialisation of justice.

Referring to numerous instances of Iraqi infringement of international regulations including deployment of chemical weapons, attack on cargo ships, oil tankers, residential areas and a passenger plane, Mo'ayeri said that Iran expected international bodies to react against Iraqi violations.

But, he added, the Iranian people were finally forced to confront Iraqi aggressions by embarking on retaliatory measures.

In reply, the U.N. secretary general said that both he and the United Nations were against deployment of chemical weapons, attack on residential areas and threatening of shipping.

Therefore, he noted, efforts were being made to find a just solution to put an end to the war, adding that he would also continue his endeavours in this field.

To this end, an expert delegation had visited Iran to make investigations on the deployment of chemical weapons and compiled a report in this connection which had been handed over to the Security Council, Perez de Cuellar said.

Holds Press Conference

LD151059 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Stockholm, March 15, IRNA — The political deputy prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, called on international organizations to make a serious effort to halt further Iraqi infringement of international regulations.

Mo'ayeri heading an Iranian delegation to take part in the funeral ceremony of late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, was speaking at a press conference held at Iranian Embassy here Friday.

He stressed that at present there was no guarantee to prevent continuation of violation of international laws, therefore, he added, Iran will continue its sacred defence against these aggressions.

"Today", he said "Muslim people of Iran are determined to punish the aggressor and uproot the aggression in order to establish security in the region."

Referring to the recent victorious offensives launched by the Iranian combatants, Mo'ayeri said that the offensives were aimed at halting Iraqi attacks against cargo ships by taking over its missile bases.

The offensives, he added, launched after a long period of tolerating indifference of international organizations, were also aimed at preventing the Baghdad regime from committing further inhumane acts and forcing it to accept Iran's conditions.

The Iranian official stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran was never interested in using military means to solve its problems, adding that presence of 60,000 Iraqi POW's in Iran was a good proof to this.

"We respect the Iraqi people and are not willing to destroy their property. What we are seeking is the punishment of the aggressor," Mo'ayeri said.

If the Iraqi imposed war did not come to an end with the punishment of the aggressor, it would create the possibility for others either in the region or outside to trample rights of others by resorting to force, he said.

He reiterated that as the Islamic Republic of Iran had repeatedly emphasised, Iran did not intend to assign the future ruling system [words indistinct] people should determine their own fate and government.

Asked if the late Swedish prime minister had made any improvement in its mission on Iraq-Iran war, Mo'ayeri said that Palme was fully aware of Iran's stance and had made great efforts for the observance of international regulations. But, he added, due to the Iraqi regime's indifference towards U.N. secretary general's message and the role Olof Palme played in this connection, these efforts proved fruitless.

On the appointment of another envoy by U.N. secretary general to replace Palme, Mo'ayeri said that as long as these efforts were aimed at respecting Iran's conditions and observance of international regulations, they would also be respected by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He stressed that the silence of international organizations vis-a-vis Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons, its attacks on residential areas, cargo ships and passenger planes which claimed the lives of over 40 people, had further encouraged the Baghdad regime in committing these crimes.

Meets Foreign Leaders

LD161104 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Stockholm, March 16, IRNA — The Iranian deputy prime minister for political affairs, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, who is currently in Sweden to take part in the funeral ceremonies held for the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, met and conferred with a number of officials of other countries who are in that country to attend the ceremony, Saturday.

In a meeting with the Cuban vice-president, Mo'ayeri discussed bilateral relations and the anti-imperialistic stance of the two countries. The two sides also exchanged views on further cooperation among revolutionary and progressive non-aligned countries prior to the New Delhi conference of the movement's foreign ministers and also the summit in Harare.

They talked about the forthcoming visit of the Cuban foreign minister to Iran.

Meanwhile, Mo'ayeri met with the former Tanzanian president, Julius Nyrere who said that Iran was the best example of a non-aligned country in the world.

The Iranian official briefed Nyrere of the latest developments in the Iraqi imposed war and called for an international move to condemn Iraqi war crimes.

Mo'ayeri met with Pakistani foreign minister, and Turkish interior minister in which he discussed friendly bilateral relations with the two neighbourly countries.

Returns to Tehran

GF170637 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Mr Mo'ayeri, the prime minister's political deputy and special emissary to Sweden, returned to Tehran last night after participating in the interment rites of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme and after meetings with leaders of some foreign countries.

The prime minister's political deputy answered correspondents' questions during an interview at the airport to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Mo'ayeri, could you please tell us the salient points of your visit to Sweden in connection with the last rites of the Swedish prime minister and about your talks with officials representing other countries?

[Mo'ayeri] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We went on this trip to participate in the last rites of the late Swedish prime minister and met Mr Carlsson the Swedish prime minister. After expressing condolences on the loss of Mr Palme, a loss for the government and people of Sweden, we discussed bilateral relations. The prime minister repeatedly stressed the need to expand mutual ties and stated that Sweden's policy is entirely neutral.

We also met with the UN secretary general and discussed the latest developments on the battlefronts and the violation of the rules of war by Iraq. Fortunately he was aware of the report by the UN team sent to investigate the use of chemical weapons and write a report for the UN secretary general — who in turn submitted it to the UN Security Council — in which Iraq was clearly mentioned as the country using chemical weapons in the war. The secretary general objected to the violation of international norms, the use of chemical weapons, attacks on residential areas, and threats to international shipping. He repeatedly emphasized opposition to these actions by Iraq.

We also had the opportunity to meet with the former Japanese prime minister, the Pakistani prime minister, the Turkish interior minister, the Cuban vice president, the Libyan representative, and others from friendly countries who had come to attend the

ceremonies. We talked about the imposed war, the victories of the Islamic combatants, and bilateral issues. [End recording]

Sheykh ol-Eslam Heads Delegation to Libya

Arrives in Tripoli

LD160813 Tehran IRNA in English 0808 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, March 15 IRNA — Political deputy at the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam arrived here Saturday night to take part in the second international conference on campaign against imperialism, Zionism, racism and reactionary regimes.

Sheykh ol-Eslam, heading a high-ranking delegation, was welcomed by a number of Libyan officials of the Iranian Embassy here.

Meanwhile a delegation of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic revolution of Iraq, headed by the chairman of the assembly's Executive Committee, Dr Ja'fari, arrived here to take part in the conference.

The conference, also attended by liberation and freedom-seeking movements from various parts of the world was inaugurated by the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Saturday night.

The Iranian delegation is due to meet high-ranking Libyan officials to discuss bilateral relations and international issues.

Official Comments on Revolution

LD171805 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli. March 17, IRNA — Deputy for International Affairs of the Islamic Propagation Organization Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri Sunday said that the Islamic revolution cannot confine itself to solving the problems merely within Iran remain indifferent to those of the outside world and oppressed nations. [sentence as received]

Speaking at an international conference on struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reactionism here Hoj. Taskhiri said the Islamic revolution has gone beyond the Iranian borders and that Imam Khomeyni is now a symbol of struggle against the U.S. and its interests.

The U.S. found the Islamic revolution as contrary to its interests Taskhiri said, and so it assigned Saddam Husayn to invade Iran for the overt purpose of overthrowing the Islamic Republic, he added.

Taskhiri also termed the U.S. threats against Iran and Libya as "futile".

Representatives from 300 revolutionary movements throughout the globe enthusiastically responded to Taskhiri's remarks.

Western Allegations of Economic Problems Denied

LD142145 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 14, IRNA — What have bananas and coffee got to do with the Iranian economy? Apparently a lot, according to a *LOS ANGELES TIMES* writer.

In fact the situation is so bad that a Western diplomat has also been quoted by the writer as saying that "it is killing Iranians."

Charles P. Wallace in a report from Tehran found the shortage of the two were the most significant signs that indicated that the Iranian economy "continues to haunt the government more than any other problem."

"Precious" bananas, he claims, are sold individually for dollars 10 each [as received] and a single can of foreign brand coffee carries a price tag of dollars 80 [as received] in Tehran.

To a Western reader, such prices even for unessential goods sound outrageous, and needless to say, the *LOS ANGELES TIMES* reporter has made an attempt to provoke that feeling.

However, he does not bother to say in his entire article, which leads with these observations, the fact that bananas have never been part of the fruit diet of Iranians. Neither has coffee been consumed to any degree that a shortages would brother anyone.

This sort of obvious malice towards the Islamic Republic is demonstrated in the rest of the article as well, which, interestingly, was not only been published in the *LOS ANGELES TIMES* Thursday, but also in the *INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE* and the British daily, *THE GUARDIAN*.

It is only until halfway through the article that the reader is told briefly that the government provides basic foodstuffs to the people at subsidised prices. There is also no reference to the truth that rice, for example, has now become an important part of the daily meal of the people in the rural areas, while before the revolution it was an exclusive meal of the urbanised people.

Nor is it acknowledged that at least 15,000 villages have been provided with electiricty since the revolution, opening the doors for a better life for millions of the impoverished, an impressive number of whom now also have piped water, schools, better roads and public facilities and services.

On broader economic matters, there is no reference to the truth that Iran has managed to fight a massive war and maintain a revolution without any foreign borrowing. The writer has also failed to make the point that Iran is one among a handful of nations that has almost no foreign debt.

According to the Bank of International Settlements, Iran has increased its foreign reserves by more than dollars 1.3 billion in Western banks since March last year. This was not pointed out either.

The choice of reflecting the situation in Iran from a biased and unjustified point of view instead of an honest and objective one as in this case, has often been made in the past.

There are no signs that this Western attitude in particular is changing in any reasonable degree but sooner or later the truth about the Islamic Republic will prevail over cheap propaganda.

Tehran Notes Bush's Upcoming Visit to Gulf
GF180647 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] George Bush, past head of the CIA and vice president of Ronald Reagan, will be visiting Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, and North Yemen from 24 March [date as heard] to 12 April. According to the French news agency, in announcing this report White House spokesman Larry Speakes emphasized the importance of the United States strategic interests in the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia. He said: This visit shows the U.S. interest in the security of this region. He added that the recent Iranian operations would be the main topic of discussions between the U.S. officials and the officials of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, and North Yemen.

Anti-U.S. Demonstrations Reportedly Held in Karachi
LD171755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] In protest against the visit of the U.S. fleet to Karachi, thousands of this city's inhabitants staged vast anti-American demonstrations. According to a report of the Central News Unit from Islamabad, the demonstrators condemned Pakistan for permitting the U.S. fleet to dock in this port and demanded withdrawal of the U.S. fleet. The demonstrators, chanting the slogans of "Death to the United States" and "Death to the U.S. allies," distributed banners and placards among the people that said: We shall not permit the United States to misuse our Islamic land; Yankee, Yankee, go home; We condemn the visit of the U.S. fleet in Pakistan's territory; Death to Israel; The United States is an enemy of Pakistan, Libya, Iran, and Palestine, and the United States is the real terrorist in the world. Afterwards the demonstrators set the U.S. flag and an effigy of Reagan on fire.

On the basis of this report, Pakistani police attacked the demonstrators with sticks and truncheons and arrested at least 50 of them. The demonstrations, which ended with the police intervention, continued for an hour.

Commentary on U.S. Creation of Tension in Gulf
LD161352 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1108 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Station political commentary]

[Excerpts] Within the context of its general aggressive policies against the Islamic world, the U.S. Administration recently warned that the escalation of the war in the Persian Gulf is a major threat to U.S. interests. This is the third time since the "Val-Fajr-8" offensive began that the Americans have raised the question of their interests in the region.

As for the recent U.S. warning, now that the Iraqi 'Aflaqist regime has demonstrated its inability to recapture the areas liberated during "Val-Fajr-8," the U.S. Administration has become even more apprehensive than before and once again resorted to issuing, as it were, threats and warnings. The only difference this time however, is that these threats and warnings give the appearance of protection for the Persian Gulf's southern littoral states.

In order to create a climate of tension, the U.S. State Department spokesman raised the question of selling air and sea defensive missiles to the tune of $354 million to Saudi Arabia. In the meantime, he said that the sale of the weapons is a definite indication of U.S. determination to defend itself in the region. The new warning issued by the U.S. State Department concerning the recent developments in this imposed war is an emphatic sign of the Reagan administration's apprehension about the trend of events in this part of the world. This trend, despite the past attempts by Washington and contrary to the wishes of world arrogance, is changing.

Reagan's administration, lacking any pretext to interfere and increase its military presence in the region, has now fabricated an excuse pretending that the security of the Persian Gulf's southern littoral states, as it were, is threatened.

The tone of voice of the U.S. State Department's spokesman leaves no doubt that the U.S. Administration is worried about the recent developments in the imposed war as well as the state of the Iraqi 'Aflaqist regime. As declared by our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman, the United States is now trying to create an artificial tension in the region and prepare the ground in order to escalate the need for the presence of U.S. arrogance in the Persian Gulf.

The changes brought about as the result of the victories of Islamic combatants during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations have rendered the supporters of the Iraqi regime so anxious and alarmed that each of them, under various pretexts, while loitering in the Persian Gulf's southern littoral states, is issuing some sort of so-called threat to the Islamic Republic. For example, take the minister of state at the British Foreign Office who visited the region. Having visited Bahrain, he said in Qatar that if the war is extended to Kuwait, then Britain would supply that country with military aid. He said that Britain would give swift consideration to any request of this kind considering the circumstances. The credibility of the decrepit British colonialism disappeared more than 10 years ago in the Persian Gulf, so the so-called threats issued by that country's envoy is nothing but a conspiracy to engender an artificial tension in the region and prepare the ground to increase the need for its aggressive presence in this part of the world.

The United States and the European colonialist countries must bear in mind that the era of threats and intimidations, the plundering of nations' resources, is over; they can no longer manipulate the interests of the alert nations of the region through policies of interference. What is happening in the region is the business of its peoples; it is the region's states which make decisions about events here.

SAIRI Official Condemns French 'Procrastination'

LD152244 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — French charge d'affaires to Tehran Pierre la France Saturday said that the two Iraqi students Fawzi Hamzah and Hasan Khayr al-Din have not yet left Iraq.

In his contact with the head of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Dr. Ja'fari, La France said the students will probably arrive in Paris Monday.

Ja'fari in return condemned procrastination of the French Government and said such collaboration with the Iraqi regime aims at providing a solution for France's election problems (March 16).

France will bear consequences of the issue, J. 'fari said, and Iraqi mujahideen all over the world would respond to the French act, he added.

Basrah University Used To Accomodate Iraqi Wounded

LD142037 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Considering the mounting Iraqi army casualties, the University of Basrah actually has been shut down and is being used to accommodate wounded and maimed troops. Quoting a report in the news bulletin issued by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, the Central News Unit reports that eye witnesses leaving Basrah have confirmed that the casualties suffered by the Iraqi Army are so enormous that in addition to hospitals and other centers used for this purpose, the University of Basrah classrooms also have been allocated to accommodate Iraqi troops.

Iraqi 'Defectors' To Patrol Occupied Areas

LD170437 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Iraqi defectors who have received military training are to be stationed in liberated regions of Al-Faw and Val-Fajr-9 operation region, northern Al-Sulaymaniyah, beginning March 19 in order to police the liberated areas, announced head of Central Headquarters of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) 'Ali Reza Afshar, here Sunday.

Afshar added that the Iraqi nation is sufficiently prepared to struggle against the Ba'thist regime at home. He added that this movement will ultimately liberate Iraq from the clutches of the criminal Ba'thist rulers.

The IRGC official called on Iraqi forces not to obstruct the advancement of the powerful Islamic forces but rather join Iran's Muslim forces before it may be too late for them to do so.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Umm Qasr Naval Base Destroyed

LD181002 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ., March 18, IRNA — The ground forces and naval units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in a successful operation Monday destroyed the only Iraqi naval base and jetty in Umm Qasr, a communique released by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ. said here Tuesday.

In addition, in the same operation the ground forces and naval units of the IRGC destroyed an Iraqi frigate in Khawr 'Abdallah, in Al-Faw region, the communique added.

A number of Iraqi personnel of the base and the crew of the battleships were killed or wounded.

The Iranian combatants are checking any Iraqi movement in Khawr 'Abdallah.

'Several' Wounded in Esfahan Raid

LD181557 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Esfahan, March 18, IRNA — Iraqi war planes bombed the vicinity of Esfahan Tuesday at noon wounding several civilians who were transfered to hospital.

Medical sources said the victims are in good condition.

The planes had earlier violated the air space of the city.

Communique No 2413

LD181620 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA — Iran's jet fighters bombarded an Iraqi economic center at 31.37 north and 47.11 east coordinates, at 09:45 a.m. (06:15 hours GMT) Tuesday inflicting irrepairable losses on the Iraqis, according to a military communique here Tuesday.

The Communique Number 2413 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that the Iranian jet fighters after successfully carrying out their mission shot down two Iraqi helicopters in the region on their way back to their bases. The planes all returned to their bases safely.

The command says that the Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts Monday killed and wounded at least 10 Iraqi soldiers and set fire to three supply and engineering vehicles of theirs.

In the western fronts, the communique says, Iranian Muslim combatants continued manning their positions and responded to Iraqi artillery fire inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them and silencing their fire.

Artillery exchange was heavier in the Majnun Islands and in Al-Faw. The movement of an Iraqi tank unit in areas overlooking

Chazabah was also checked according to the military communique.

The Iraqi forces in a bid to stop Iranian attacks in Panjwin concentrated their operations on fortifying their positions, but most of their operations including engineering, transport of armoured and infantry units in the region were checked by Iranian Muslim fo.ces, reports the joint staff command.

Iraqi casualties suffered a number of dead and wounded in the northwestern fronts Monday and two vehicles, several observation posts and parts of their defensive positions were destroyed according to the communique.

Khomeyni's Health Called 'Very Critical'

GF181427 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Excerpts] A rumor is circulating in Tehran that Khomeyni's health is very critical and that almost all of his relatives are expecting him to die. We have a phone report from our colleague:

[Begin recording] The rumor of Ruhollah Khomeyni's illness in Iran has caused grave concern within government circles. Reports leaking out of Jamaran talk of (?incurable) diseases of a man, who is very close to 100, entering a dangerous state. The possibility that Khomeyni may suffer a brain stroke or a heart attack due to the hardening and closing of some arteries has not been discounted by his attending physicians. Tehran medical circles note that Khomeyni is suffering from diseases in his urinary tract, eyes, kidney, and heart. [End recording]

Correction to Bulgarian Minister Meets Majlis Speaker

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani," published in the 14 March South Asia *DAILY REPORT* on page I 2:

Paragraph three, line three should read: ...gained great achievements in Iran and have now gained... (supplying indistinct words, rewording)